

FACT SHEET

Ogallala Ground Water Site Operable Unit #2 Ogallala, Nebraska



September, 2002

INTRODUCTION

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has approved a time critical removal action to remove high levels of PCE contamination from the ground water migrating from near the Tip Top Dry Cleaners facility located at 116 W. 5th Street, Ogallala, Nebraska. This part of the Ogallala Ground Water Superfund site is known as Operable Unit #2.

BACKGROUND

The Nebraska Department of Health discovered contamination in Ogallala's water supply wells during routine sampling in 1989. The City has since installed a new well field.

The Ogallala Ground Water site was placed on the National Priorities List in December, 1994, making it eligible for cleanup under EPA's Superfund program. Five potential sources of ground water contamination, including Tip Top Dry Cleaners, have been identified. Several actions have already been taken to address contamination at other parts of the site.

THE CONTAMINATION

Soil contaminated with tetrachloroethylene (PCE) has been identified at the Tip Top Cleaners facility. The PCE-contaminated soil is considered a source of the contamination found in the ground water extending southeast from Tip Top Dry Cleaners to beyond East G Street. PCE is commonly used in dry-cleaning fluid, spot removers, and degreasers.

EPA is currently conducting a separate removal action at the Tip-Top Cleaners using soil vapor extraction (SVE) to remove the PCE in the soils at the source area. This time critical removal action will address the ground water contamination adjacent to and downgradient from the source area.

THE TIME CRITICAL REMOVAL ACTION

A time-critical response action will quickly address the most contaminated portion of the plume, eliminating the threat to human health and the environment posed by vapor intrusion, and preventing further migration of the highly contaminated levels of PCE.

EPA proposes to use chemical oxidation to reduce the levels of PCE in the highly-contaminated shallow portion of the aquifer.

The objectives of the removal are to:

- quickly reduce the levels of PCE in ground water downgradient of the Tip-Top Cleaners;
- remove the immediate threat to human health and the environment; and
- monitor the effectiveness of the removal action to determine future appropriate actions for aquifer restoration

The removal action is anticipated to be completed in less than 12 months.

WHAT ABOUT THE GROUND WATER?

EPA intends to address the remainder of the PCE-contaminated ground water associated with the Tip Top Dry Cleaners. A treatability study was performed at the site this summer using sodium permanganate as the chemical oxidant. Initial results of the treatability study indicate that sodium permanganate is effective in reducing the level of PCE. After completion of this time-critical removal action, EPA will evaluate chemical oxidation as one of the options to be considered to address the entire area of PCE-contaminated ground water. The public will be notified and asked to comment on a ground water cleanup method in the future.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

EPA encourages community members to review the Administrative Record File, which contains:

“Phase II Additional Site Characterization of the Sallow Alluvial Aquifer OU2 - Tip Top Dry Cleaner Plume, Ogallala, Nebraska” dated December, 2000;

“Final Report for the IN Situ Chemical Oxidation Treatability Study, Ogallala Groundwater Site Operable Unit 2, Ogallala, Nebraska” dated April 2, 2002;

“Final Report for Direct Push Technology Groundwater Sampling and the Installation of Permanent Monitoring Wells, Ogallala Groundwater Site, Operable Unit No. 2, Ogallala, Nebraska” dated August 13, 2002;

The Action Memorandum; and

Other site-related documents

The Administrative Record File is available at the following locations:

Goodall City Library
203 W. A Street
Ogallala, Nebraska

EPA Region 7
901 N. 5th Street
Kansas City, Kansas

If you have questions or need additional information, please contact -

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